

## **Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee**

Draft Minutes for May 11, 2006

### Attendees:

#### Committee Members:

Chairman Ralph Hambrick, Sue Cecil, John Pearsall, Greg Velzy and Jonathan Young.

#### Others:

Lyle Browning (ASU), Christine Fix (DPU), Rachel Flynn, (Community Development), Rosemary Green (DPU), Ken Hopson (Friends of James River Parks), Bill Trout (VC&NS) and Ralph White (James River Parks).

The meeting convened with an introduction of Ms. Rachel Flynn, the newly appointed Director of the Department of Community Development. Flynn advised that she would like to incorporate the Committee's work within the new Master Plan. Flynn communicated a concern that private development was beginning to preclude public access to the river. Flynn indicated that the new riverfront zoning still needed to be mapped. Further, Flynn concurred with the importance of incorporating lands owned by other public departments within the park system when practical.

The minutes from April were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. John Pearsall.

Chairman Ralph Hambrick initiated a conversation regarding a letter on behalf of the Committee to DPU pertaining to the water conduit project. Said letter communicated the Committee's appreciation for addressing the group's concerns. The Committee approved sending the letter to DPU.

Hambrick provided a brief report on the status of conservation easements for the parks and on the Mayo Island billboard.

Hambrick advised of a recent venture to inspect an unearthed canal freighter. The group briefly discussed measures to protect the freighter from continued exposure to the elements. Hambrick appointed a committee of persons to be chaired by Lyle Browning to study aforementioned measures.

Mr. Ken Hopson of Friends of James River Parks requested assistance in the Friends' survey efforts. Mr. Ralph White informed the Committee that recent results have revealed that up to 25% of James River Parks users are from out of state or even from another country.

Additional topics of discussion included the recent arsons on Belle Isle including 13 in 21 days. The Committee was advised that the recently installed electronic gates on the Southside including in Forest Hill Park are not functioning.

The Committee adjourned at 1:40 p.m.